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Belo refuses to attend KWI annual meeting

Source: protected. Date: 12 November 1991. This item is part of a long Indonesian-language report received by TAPOL from Jakarta, other parts of which will be summarised later.

A short while ago, Mgr Julius Darmaatmadja, SJ, chairman of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference (KWI) invited Bishop Belo, Apostolic Administrator of Dili, to attend this month's meeting of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference. Bishop Belo's reply to Mgr Darmaatmadja reads as follows:

"I would like to inform you that I have received an invitation from the General Secretariat of the Bishops' Conference to attend the Annual Meeting this November. But following the event at Motael Church on 28 October which has just taken place, I have decided not to come to Jakarta in "protest" at the arrogance of the Indonesian armed forces who broke the windows of Motael Church and murdered a young man named Sebastiao Gomes. My decision to protest grew stronger when, on the evening of 28 October, the Indonesian Television (TVRI) world news broadcast an untrue, false and fabricated report. That news placed all the blame on the Church!

For this reason, I have decided not to attend the forthcoming annual meeting in Jakarta from 3 till 12 November, either as an observer or as a guest.